

**MINUTES  
ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1J  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**OPENING OF MEETING**

The Board of Education of the St. Vrain Valley School District met April 22, 2020 at the Educational Services Center Board Room, 395 South Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado. The Regular Meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Joie Siegrist at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Board Members Present:**

John Ahrens, Secretary, Director District D  
Jim Berthold, Member, Director District C  
Dr. Richard Martyr, Member, Director District E  
Karen Ragland, Treasurer & Assistant Secretary, Director District B  
Joie Siegrist, President, Director District A

**Board Members Absent (Excused):**

Chico Garcia, Member, Director District G  
Paula Peairs, Vice President, Director District F

**St. Vrain Valley School District Staff Present:**

Greg Fieth, Chief Financial Officer (by phone)  
Dr. Don Haddad, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Jackie Kapushion, Deputy Superintendent  
Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations (by phone)

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (2.0)**

Agenda was accepted as presented.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3.0)**

None

**VISITORS (4.0)**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no visitors and no physical public participation. The public was encouraged to leave any comments they would like Board members to read at the Board Meeting and were supplied a dedicated link on the District website to do so. At the deadline of Noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, there were no comments.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis required no meetings greater than 10 people, that they create a personal six-foot distance from each other, and that anyone leaving their home must wear a mask to protect themselves from infection. Board members complied with these requirements to conduct this Board Meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE (5.0)**

- Board President Joie Siegrist thanked Dr. Haddad and Dr. Kapushion, on behalf of the Board, for the amount of work it took to put together online learning and for their leadership throughout the pandemic.
- Dr. Haddad discussed the letter that he sent out to the community closing schools for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. Each principal will be sending out a follow-up letter in the near future with details on when students and teachers can retrieve their belongings from the schools and details on the July 25, 2020 high school graduations.
- Hiring update – the District is way ahead of the curve but will wait until June after the Long Bill has been determined and the estimate of the student count to show where teachers will be needed the most.
- The District will not seek reimbursement for additional iPads that were purchased because the students may have to use them in the fall for online learning, but will seek reimbursement for the food that was given out while schools were closed.
- High school graduations are planned for July 25, 2020 and new dates/times/locations were announced for the alternative program graduations and plans for summer programming were discussed.
- Announced that Colorado High School Activities Association has cancelled spring sports and music programs – Chase McBride will be sending a letter to all families regarding rules on gathering in the spring and summer.
- Committees are being formed for each of the elementary, middle and high school grades to plan for what fall classes might look like with strategies in adhering to social distancing with possible split schedules.
- Reviewed the District's financial condition discussion with Greg Fieth at the work session before the Board Meeting and the possible cut in per pupil allocation.
- Negotiations are in a holding pattern with no commitments in hiring teachers until the results of the Long Bill and estimated student count.
- Congratulated Laura Hess on her work with Special Education and online IEPs.
- Reported 96% engagement level from students and described the tracking system used to track engagement, as well as the process the counselors, staff and principals are using to contact parents of students to ensure students stay on track for the next grade level.

- Dr. Jackie Kapushion updated the Board on the status of online learning:
  - Described how teachers are monitoring student online activity – registered 16,000 logins and 16 hits per student in Seesaw for K-3.
  - Teachers can run a weekly report from their assignment log of parent contacts that tracks and monitors outreach for students.
  - At the beginning of online learning, it was not known what exactly the state was going to hold the District accountable to so the team built the system with standards-based and aligned curriculum for each grade level that was the same curriculum that was expected to be used in the fourth quarter.
- Dr. Haddad is very grateful for the teachers, staff and community that have gone above and beyond to help the District – everyone giving lunches to those that need them, nurses volunteering in the community, donation of 10,000 N95 masks to Boulder County Health Department, etc.
- Dr. Martyr appreciated the update of online learning. He had an opportunity to talk to several teachers who are very thankful for the level of support that they are getting and how the District was equipping them with the needed technology to support their students. He also shared some of the concerns that the teachers had about feeling they weren't doing enough. Dr. Haddad reminded everyone that, at this time, families are struggling with the stress of job loss, ability to keep food on the table, and loss of living arrangements. He encouraged Dr. Martyr to pass onto the teachers to keep doing the great job they are doing and not to be so hard on themselves. He wanted them to be assured that the District is doing everything in their power to make sure students do not lose a grade level of learning during this last quarter. There will be summer programs the students can utilize to stay on track with their grade level too.
- Dr. Kapushion and staff expects gaps in student learning levels but, in the fall, be assured the teachers traditionally diagnose those gaps even when students have the summers off and quickly begin to differentiate instruction to compensate for it.
- Dr. Haddad updated the Board members on the people that were chosen for the positions of Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for Frederick High School, Assistant Principal for Longmont High School, and the Executive Director of Human Resources.
- Dr. Haddad discussed the conflict of interest item – assured the Board members that there were many more cases of conflict of interest that were not allowed to go before the Board because administration treats these cases very serious in order to avoid any appearance of inappropriate business between the District and its employees.

## **REPORTS (6.0)**

### **District Financial Statements – March 2020 (6.1)**

Greg Fieth called into the meeting for the work session before the Board Meeting to report the District was in an excellent financial position and that the District was able to meet its financial obligations. Board members Karen Ragland and John Ahrens attended the virtual Finance & Audit Committee Meeting and concurred with the District's financial position.

## **CONSENT ITEMS (7.0)**

Dr. Richard Martyr moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 7.1 through 7.11. Karen Ragland seconded.

1. Approval: Approval of Change Order 2 to Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) Contract for the Sanborn Elementary School Renovation
2. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Erie Middle School Bond Project
3. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Frederick High School Addition
4. Approval: Approval of Amendment to CMGC Contract for Altona Middle School Renovation
5. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Assistant Principal/Athletic Director for Frederick High School
6. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Assistant Principal for Longmont High School
7. Approval: Approval of Recommendation to Hire Executive Director of Human Resources
8. Approval: Approval of Request to Grant an Exception to Board Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest-Tim McIntire
9. Approval: Approval of Contract Award for Security Cameras
10. Approval: First Reading, Adoption, Board Policy BEDH-R – Public Participation at School Board Meetings
11. Approval: Approval of Closure of All District Schools for the Remainder of the 2019/2020 School Year

Board President Joie Siegrist congratulated the newly hired administration with the hope of meeting them in the near future. She described the reason for the minor change in Board Regulation BEDH-R.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, absent; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

## **ACTION ITEMS (8.0)**

### **Approval of Weld County 6 Educational Costs (8.1)**

Jim Berthold moved that the Board of Education approve a blanket purchase order to Weld County for an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000. John Ahrens seconded.

Via phone-in, Greg Fieth reported that the St. Vrain Valley School District is legally responsible for paying a portion of educational costs for students who are incarcerated in Weld County. The portion of costs is determined on a per-student cost of all students

within Weld County. The approval of this not-to-exceed amount will cover all costs associated with this service through the end of FY20.

Purchases for FY21 will be added to the consolidated Board memorandum for approval of vendors providing purchased services over \$100,000 each year.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, absent; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

### **Approval of Architect Selection for Pool Addition Project (8.2)**

John Ahrens moved that the Board of Education approve that the District build an 8-lane swimming pool with a diving well and bleachers and approve the selection of Cuningham Group Architects to provide architectural and engineering services for the Pool Addition Project at Silver Creek High School, for a maximum amount of \$880,000, and an initial contract of \$704,335. Further, that the Board authorize Brian Lamer, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, to sign contract documents and initiate scope changes in accordance with Board of Education policy. Jim Berthold seconded.

Via phone, Brian Lamer reported that the architect review committee reviewed responses to RFQ 2017-037 "Architectural Services for District Projects." Cuningham Group Architects was selected as the most qualified for the project.

The Agreement includes the design services related to site selection, architectural program development, project development and design, construction administration, and project closeout for an 8-lane pool addition at Silver Creek High School.

Dr. Haddad expects that the swimming pool will generate revenue by hosting swim meets, water safety and scuba diving certifications, concessions, and renting it out to the public in the summer. The District will save the annual \$356,000 spent on renting City of Longmont facilities. His hope is that, in future bonds, that another pool can be included in the plans for a new high school on the east side of Longmont.

Brian Lamer assured the Board members that building this pool does not take away any funds from the remaining bond projects already in progress. To date, \$211 million of the \$216 million bond has been spent getting all planned projects to completion. The timeline of the pool would be to break ground October 2020 and have the pool completed in November of the 2020/2021 Girls' Swimming season. Brian will report back to the Board once the designs are completed.

Board members thanked Dr. Haddad, Brian Lamer and his team for putting the feasibility study together and are excited for the District to have their own pool. Everyone concurred that the value of the swimming program would justify the cost of building the pool.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, absent; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

### **Approval of Extension of Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency (8.3)**

Dr. Richard Martyr moved that the Board of Education approve the extension of the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency, and authorize Joie Siegrist, President of the Board of Education, to sign the proclamation documents. Karen Ragland seconded.

Via phone, Brian Lamer reported that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency was signed by the Superintendent, effective March 14, 2020 to March 21, 2020, to allow St. Vrain Valley Schools access to local emergency funds and Federal and State assistance. Further, an extension was enacted to continue the Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency until May 2, 2020. The pandemic has not yet subsided, therefore, it is recommended that the Board of Education approve the extension indefinitely.

Board members questioned approving the Declaration extension indefinitely. They agreed to keep the Declaration language intact providing that there is a COVID-19 Report at every Regular Board Meeting to keep up-to-date with mandates from local and federal officials.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, absent; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

### **Approval of the School to Work Alliance Program Contract (8.4)**

Karen Ragland moved that the Board of Education approve the contract with the Colorado Department of Education to support funding for the School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP). John Ahrens seconded.

SWAP is a partnership between the St. Vrain Valley Schools, the Colorado Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. This program supports the development of job seeking, work skills, and employment for students with disabilities ages 15 through 21.

St. Vrain Valley Schools has participated in SWAP for the past 21 years, and has one of the highest closure rates for students seeking, securing, and maintaining employment for students with disabilities in the state. A program coordinator and three specialists are supported through this grant funding. The program is supported and implemented through grant funds only. This year, the contract will be sent to the Board President for her signature electronically the week of May 4, 2020.

The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, absent; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

**DISCUSSION ITEMS (9.0)**

None

**ADJOURNMENT (10.0)**

Dr. Haddad thanked Board members for their constant attention to detail, their commitment to the community, their assistance in passing mill levies and bonds, actively engaging in all events in all schools, and their support in every aspect of the District. Board President Joie Siegrist appreciated that our St. Vrain Valley Board members continue to make decisions based on what is best for the students. She acknowledged that this Board's success was built on the backs of all Board members that came before them.

Board President Joie Siegrist reminded everyone that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held in the Board Room on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. following the same format as the April 8 and April 22, 2020 Regular Meetings.

Karen Ragland moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m., and John Ahrens seconded. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation: [John Ahrens, yes; Jim Berthold, yes; Chico Garcia, absent; Dr. Richard Martyr, yes; Paula Peairs, absent; Karen Ragland, yes; Joie Siegrist, yes].

Respectfully submitted,

John Ahrens, Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Steege, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education

Read and approved or corrected and approved on May 13, 2020.